

Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00

INT-05 /090 W

----- 080267

R 311304Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3985

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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DEPT PLEASE PASS OES FOR DEP. ASST. SECTY. HERTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, XG

SUBJECT: THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE RHINE FROM POLLUTION

REF: BONN 02547

1. FRG OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO EMBASSY THAT YET
ANOTHER DELAY IS TO BE EXPECTED IN THE LONG-DELAYED
THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
RHINE. THE MEETING, RESCHEDULED FOR PARIS IN NOVEMBER
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AS NOTED REFTEL, COULD NOW TAKE PLACE IN LATE DECEMBER

OR JANUARY. ADDITIONALLY, ONLY RATHER MODEST RESULTS SHOULD BE EXPECTED.

2. THE CENTRAL PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING LACK OF AGREEMENT ON DRAFT CHEMICAL POLLUTION TREATY. FONOFF SOURCE NOTED SUBSTANTIAL DUTCH PRESSURE TO HOLD MEETING IN ANY CASE IN ORDER TO KEEP UP INTEREST. HOWEVER, WITHOUT A COMPLETED TREATY, MINISTERIAL WOULD BE LIMITED TO "ACCEPTING" SEVERAL REPORTS ON VARIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING CHEMICAL AND THERMAL POLLUTION - NOT THE GREAT RESULTS THAT ONE EXPECTS FROM A MINISTERIAL MEETING" ACCORDING TO FONOFF OFFICIAL.

3. AN ADDITIONAL AND UNANTICIPATED COMPLICATION HAS BEEN RECENT BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE WITHIN THE EC IN REGARD TO THE ADOPTION OF COMMON WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. BRITISH POSITION, DESCRIBED AS "TRAGIC" BY BMI OFFICIAL, RUNS DIRECTLY COUNTER TO THE GERMAN ASSERTION THAT A HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS MUST DEVELOP FOR THE ENTIRE EC WHICH WILL NOT SINGLE OUT THE RHINE AS SPECIAL CASE, TO COMMERCIAL DISADVANTAGE OF THE FRG. BMI SOURCE INDICATED THAT REAL PROGRESS ON THE RHINE MIGHT NOT OCCUR UNTIL EC SPLIT ON WATER QUALITY STANDARDS WAS SETTLED. HE WAS HOPEFUL EC MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS IN EARLY DECEMBER WOULD MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

4. PESSIMISTIC FEELING HERE IS THAT DESPITE WELL-INTENTIONED ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, ENVIRONMENT SLIPPAGE MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE DURING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THAT RHINE SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUCH SLIPPAGE.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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